

**Proposed claim amendments for US Appln. Ser. No. 10/692,191**

126. (previously presented) A method for increasing elastin content in a region of skin of a subject, the method comprising applying topically a composition consisting essentially of one or more zinc-containing components in admixture with a dermatologically or pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, in an elastin-increasing effective amount, to the region of skin of the subject,

wherein the one or more zinc-containing components is selected from the group consisting of zinc acetate, ascorbate, aspartate, butyrate, caproate, caprylate, carbonate, chromate, citraconate, citramalate, citrate, EDTA, formate, fumarate, gallate, gluconate, halides, iodate, lactate, laurate, laureate, malate, maleate, malonate, metaphosphate, methanesulfonate, monophosphate, myristate, nitrate, octoate, oleate, orotate, orthophosphate, oxalate, palmitate, permanganate, phenolsulfonate, phosphate, picolinate, propionate, pyrophosphate, salicylate, selenate, stearate, succinate, sulfate, sulfonate, tartrate, tetrametaphosphate, titanate, transferrin, tripolyphosphate, undecylate, valerate, zinc amino acid complexes, zinc nucleotide complexes, and mixtures thereof,

wherein zinc is present in the composition at a concentration that increases elastin without causing epidermal sloughing and irritation due to zinc, and

wherein the elastin content in the region of skin is increased in a sufficient amount to treat wrinkles.

127. (previously presented) The method according to claim 126, wherein the one or more zinc-containing components comprises zinc carbonate.
128. (previously presented) The method according to claim 126, wherein the one or more zinc-containing components comprises zinc citrate.
129. (currently amended) The method according to claim 126, wherein the zinc is present in the composition in a concentration that ranges from ~~about~~ 1.0 pM to ~~about~~ 900  $\mu$ M.
130. (currently amended) The method according to claim 127, wherein the zinc is present in the composition in a concentration that ranges from ~~about~~ 1.0 pM to ~~about~~ 900  $\mu$ M.
131. (currently amended) The method according to claim 128, wherein the zinc is present in the composition in a concentration that ranges from ~~about~~ 1.0 pM to ~~about~~ 900  $\mu$ M.
132. (previously presented) The method according to claim 126, wherein the zinc is present in the composition at a concentration of 1 mM.
133. (previously presented) The method according to claim 127, wherein the zinc is present in the composition at a concentration of 1 mM.

134. (previously presented) The method according to claim 128, wherein the zinc is present in the composition at a concentration of 1 mM.
135. (previously presented) The method according to claim 126, wherein the carrier is a dermatologically acceptable carrier and the composition is applied to a site on the skin of the subject.
136. (previously presented) The method according to claim 126, wherein the composition is applied to one or more sites selected from the group consisting of the face, breasts, buttocks, neck, legs, arms, torso, and furrows or wrinkles in the face, hands or neck.
137. (previously presented) The method according to claim 126, wherein the composition comprises one or more zinc chelates.
138. (previously presented) The method according to claim 126, wherein the carrier is a dermatologically acceptable carrier and further comprises a moisturizer.
139. (currently amended) A method for increasing elastin content in a region of skin of a subject, said method comprising applying a composition that comprises one or more zinc-containing components to the region of skin of the subject,